

California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP)

Hosted by: The California Student Aid Commission (Commission)
"Making Education Beyond High School Financially Accessible To All Californians"

Presented by: Katrina Beck, Program Coordinator





Background

California Education Code (CEC) Sections 69999.10 - 69999.30

California Code of Regulations (CCR) subsection 30730 - 30738

The California National Guard Education Assistance Award Program (CNG EAAP) is a State-funded grant designed as an educational incentive to improve skills, competencies, and abilities for up to 1,000 service members (as the budget allows) who remain active in the National Guard, the State Military Reserve, or the Naval Militia. This grant is based on merit, not on financial need. We do not use EFC to determine the award amount.

Through an Interagency Agreement, the California National Guard (CNG) gave the California Student Aid Commission (Commission) the authority to process and disburse the award checks.





Purpose of Training

Today's training will provide instructions and procedures to successfully administer the program through the WebGrants System.

This includes instructions regarding

- Cost of Attendance
- Enrollment verification (number of units attending)
- Payment disbursement





Definitions

Cost of Attendance (**COA**) means student budget at the qualifying institution for the participant that includes tuition, fees, housing, food, books, transportation and personal expenses for the year. It may also include an allowance for the rental or purchase of a computer, child care or other dependent care costs and additional expenses for students with disabilities not already covered. COA is specific to each term (quarter or semester). *The Cost of Attendance should be adjusted for any waiver of, or reduction in, tuition and fees (such as the BOGG waiver or a State University Grant).*

VEB means any federal educational benefits for veterans. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Chapter 31, the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program;
- Chapter 1607, the Reserve Educational Assistance (REAP) Program;
- Chapter 32, the Post-Vietnam Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP);
- Chapter 1606, the Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve (MG-SR);
- Chapter 30, the Montgomery GI Bill for Active Duty (MG-AD);
- Chapter 33, the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the "Yellow Ribbon Program"
- Federal Tuition Assistance



Academic Year (AY) goes from July 1 to June 30 and includes any classes that start during that timeframe.



Eligibility Requirements

The CNG EAAP coordinator verifies that the service member meets certain eligibility requirements before we accept the service member into the CNG EAAP.

You will need to verify that the student meets the following requirements:

- Participants must maintain enrollment in a minimum of three (3) academic units per term at a qualifying institution.
- Participants cannot receive a Cal Grant award check in the same academic year they receive a CNG EAAP award check.
- The CNG EAAP cannot be used to obtain a certificate, degree, or diploma currently held.
- Participants must maintain a minimum of a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (GPA).

The cumulative GPA is verified when the participants renew for the following academic year before enrollment information can be entered.



We do not require that a student maintain SAP to receive a CNG EAAP award check. Renewal students do not have to complete a FAFSA.



Award Amounts

The maximum award amount at a California Community College is the equivalent of a Cal Grant B per academic year.

- \$1,648 per academic year
- \$824 per semester
- \$549 per quarter

The maximum award amount for at a California State University is the equivalent of the Cal Grant A amount for the CSU per academic year.

The award amount for the 2014-15 academic year is

- \$5,472 per academic year
- \$2,736 per semester or \$1,824 per quarter

The maximum award amounts for the University of California and California private institutions are equal to the Cal Grant A award amounts for the UC per an academic year.

The award amount for the 2014-15 academic year is

- \$12,192 per academic year
- \$6,096 per semester or \$4,064 per quarter

These amounts are subject to change if budgetary revisions are made.





Award Amounts cont.

Graduate study students can receive an additional stipend of up to \$500 per AY.

The \$500 for graduate studies does not come separately but is added on to the initial maximum award amount per year to create a higher maximum award amount.

For example, someone attending at UC Davis would be eligible for up to \$12,692 per AY or a maximum of \$6,346 per semester or \$4,230 per quarter.





Calculating Maximum Award Amount

A participant's award amount equals the term-specific Cost of Attendance (COA) minus any federal educational benefits for veteran's (VEB), up to the maximum amount allowed by the State's Annual Budget Act.

The CNG EAAP is not based on financial need.

CNG EAAP participants are informed that, if they are receiving benefits based on financial need, receiving the CNG EAAP could cause a reduction in their eligibility for those financial need-based awards. They are advised to check with their financial aid counselor to see if there will be a conflict.

Student loans are not to be taken into consideration when awarding or disbursing the CNG EAAP. Loans should not be included in the COA. One of the purposes of the CNG EAAP is to help students avoid having to take out loans or to repay loans they had to take out for the semester. The student has the option of applying any CNG EAAP funds to student loans, but it can be used to cover other areas of the student's COA, such as books, housing, or transportation.





Award Checks

Unlike other programs where the award payments are made out to the institution and used for tuition and fees, CNG EAAP award checks are "to be used for education related expenses" (Section 30734(c)) and are payable directly to the student.

Award checks are mailed to the institution for disbursement so that the institution can verify at the time of disbursement that: the student is still attending a minimum of 3 units, the student is not receiving any Cal Grant award checks, and the award amount is still accurate.

This also allows the institution to determine if receiving the CNG EAAP impacts any financial-need based programs that would need to be adjusted or returned.



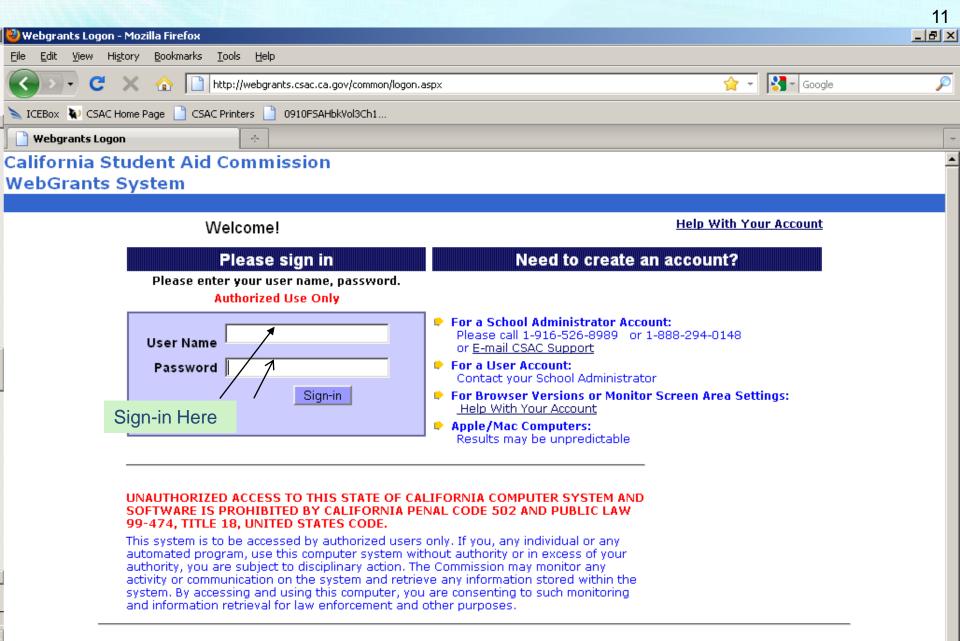


Getting Started with WebGrants

Log on to:

http://webgrants.csac.ca.gov/common/logon.aspx





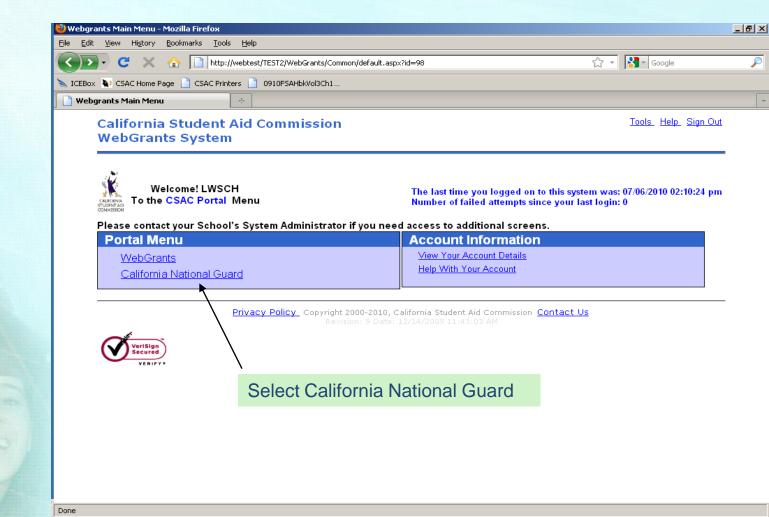


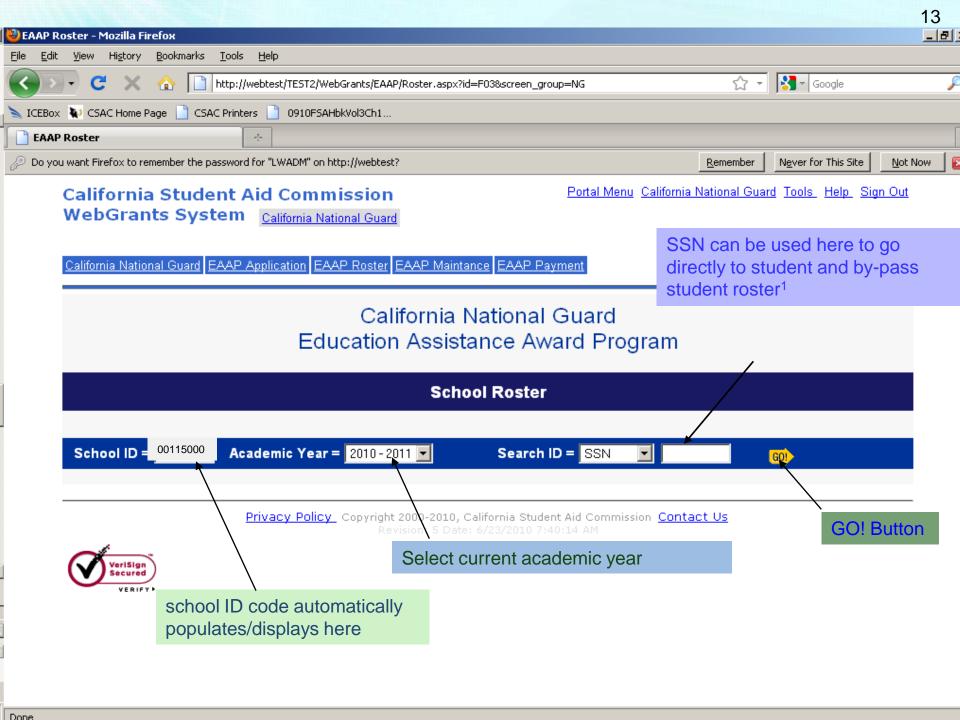


COMMISSION

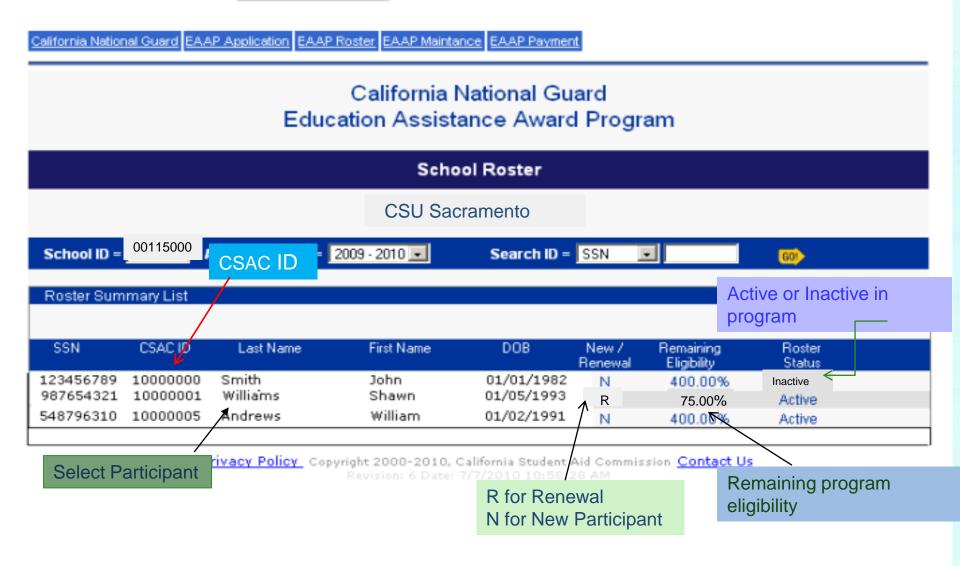
Getting Started-Accessing EAAP

As illustrated below, the user will be directed to the Portal Menu Screen. Select the <u>California National Guard</u> link.





California Student Aid Commission WebGrants System California National Guard

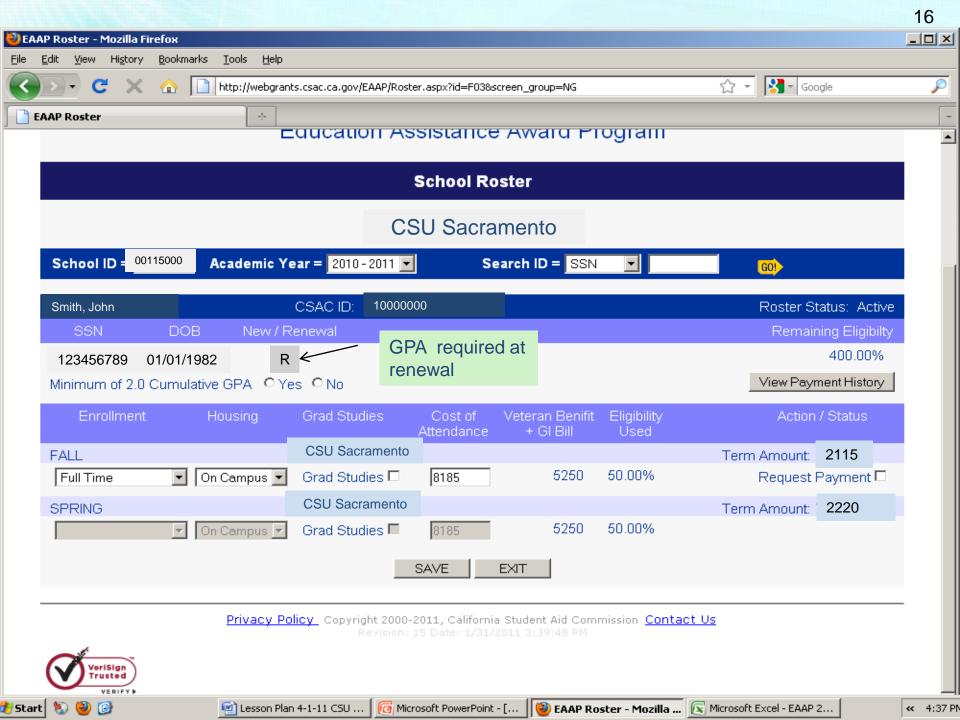


Notes for previous slide

This slide lists remaining eligibility for each participant. Each participant starts out with 4 full-time years worth of eligibility, or 400 percent. A person who has 400 percent eligibility has not been issued any award checks.

If a participant has less than 100 percent eligibility remaining, then they have less than one full-time year's worth of eligibility remaining.

If a participant is Inactive, they are either on a Hold for the academic year pending additional information or have been withdrawn from the program.



Notes for previous slide

Participants must submit renewal paperwork to indicate that they will continue in the program for the following academic year. These become available at www.calguard.ca.gov/education on January 15 and must be submitted by July 1 to the CNG EAAP Coordinator at the California National Guard Headquarters.

Before we can release any award checks for the new academic year, the renewal student's Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) must be verified to meet the requirement of being a 2.0 or greater as of the last term attended for the previous academic year.

If a student falls below the required 2.0 in the fall term but raises their grades during the spring term back up to the 2,0. they would be qualified to continue in the CNG EAAP.



Enrollment Data

Each term, the institution will enter or update:

- the student's enrollment status
 - 12+ units
 - 9.0-11.99 units
 - 6.0-8.99 units
 - 3.0-5.99 units
 - Less than 3 units
 - Not enrolled
- the student's housing status
 - On Campus
 - Off Campus
 - With Parents
- whether the student is in graduate studies or higher (community colleges are unable to make this selection)
- the student's <u>term-specific</u> Cost of Attendance (COA) for the participant.











VERIFY



























Calculating Award Amounts

Cost of Attendance for CNG EAAP is term specific and includes tuition, books, fees, housing, transportation, and personal expenses. The Cost of Attendance should be adjusted for any waiver of, or reduction in, tuition and fees (such as the BOGG waiver or a State University Grant).

In accordance with State Regulations, need is determined through the following formula:

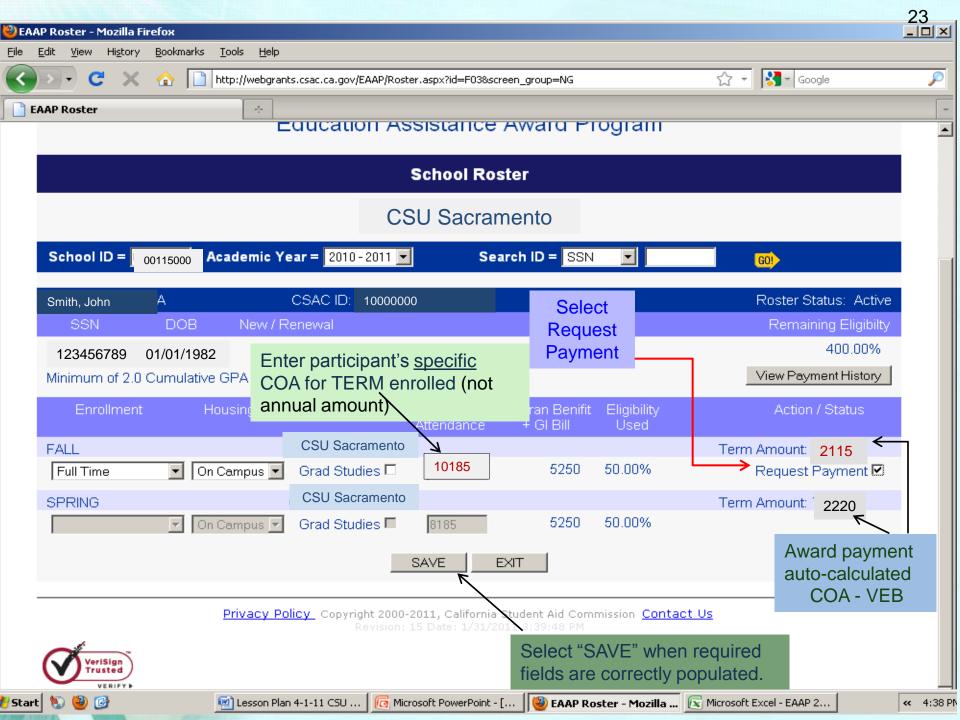
Cost of Attendance

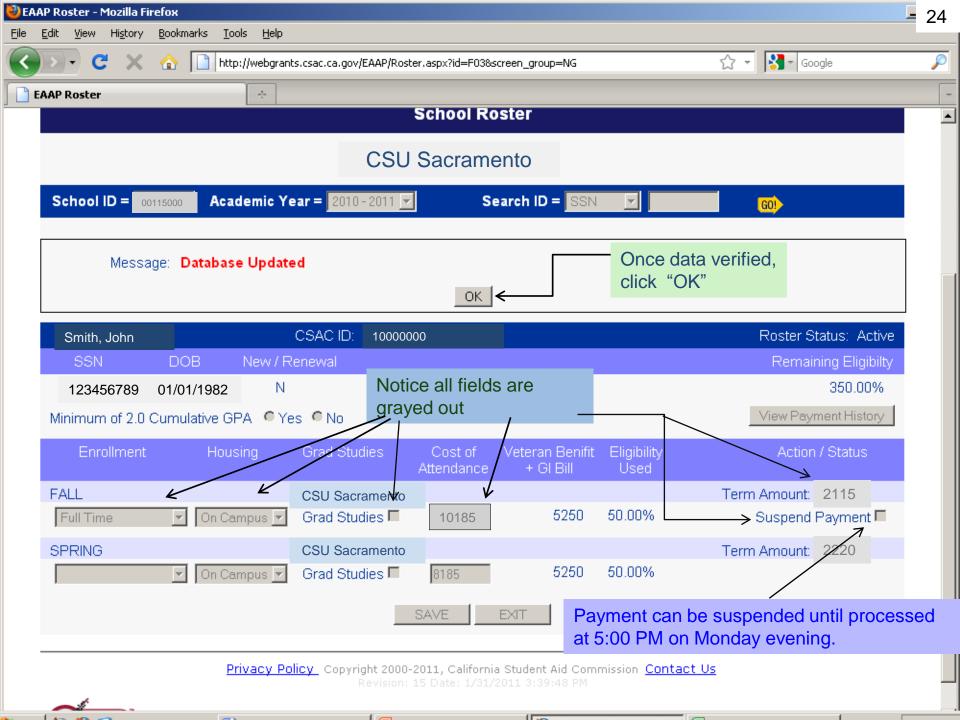
Minus Federal Montgomery GI Bill

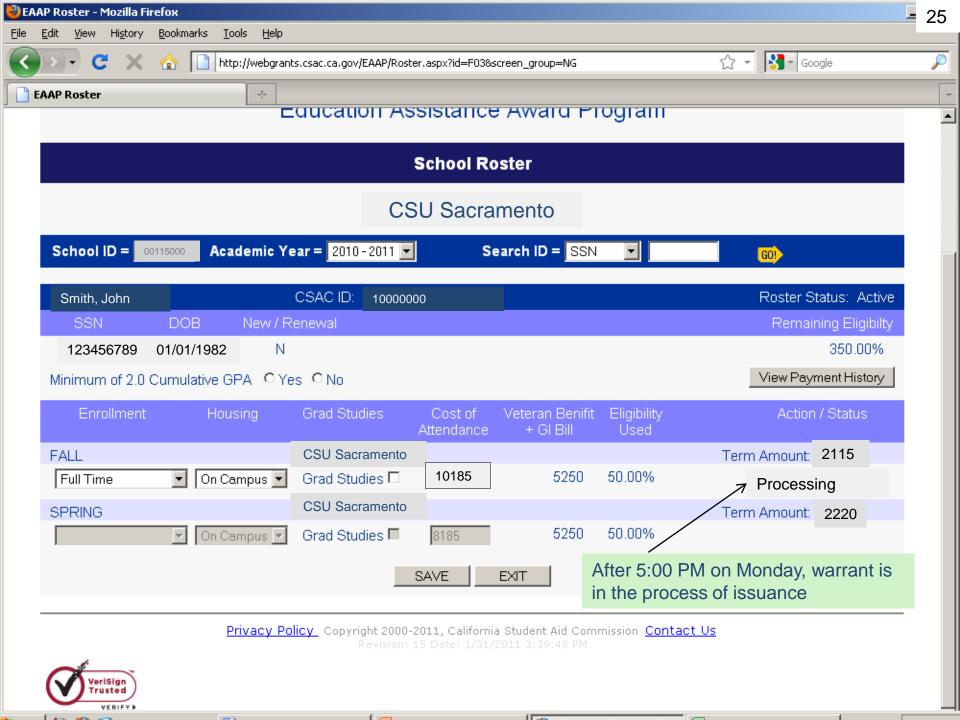
Minus Other Federal Benefits Programs for Veterans

Equals Remaining Need











EAAP Disbursements

After the Commission receives the award checks from the State Controller's Office, the Commission will send the award checks to the institution along with a copy of the Disbursement Roster Guidelines and a Disbursement Roster.

Once the check is mailed, the student's Action/Status in Web Grants that previously read "**Processing**" will be changed to show the "**Payment Disbursed**" box. This box should not be checked until the award check has been received at the institution and handed over to the student.

Once the institution has received the CNG EAAP award checks, contact the participants to inform them that their check is ready for pick up. If your institution has a special processing policy, let the student know how long the processing time will take.



'If you do not hear back from the participant after a month, e-mail me and I will contact the participant and let you know whether the participant will be coming in to pick up the check or if the check should be sent back to the Commission.



Disbursing an EAAP Payment, cont.

Before disbursing the payment to the participant, the institution must verify that the participant has not received a Cal Grant payment and is currently enrolled in a minimum of 3 units (or, if the term has finished, the participant must have completed the term with a minimum of 3 units).

If the participant attends a spring term from January to May but ceases to be an active member in April, that participant is not eligible for the spring award check whether they received the award check in February or in May.

If there are changes to the Cost of Attendance but <u>the award</u> amount for the term is not affected by these changes, the payment is **released to the student**.

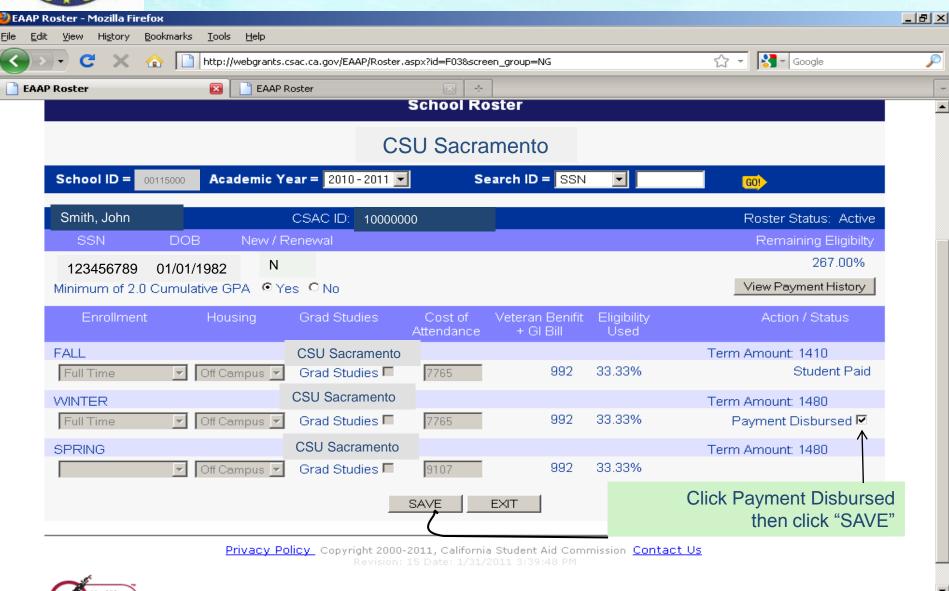
Once the payment has been disbursed, you will need to complete and return the disbursement roster that was attached to the check. The best way to do this is to scan and e-mail them to the e-mail address at the end of this presentation.





Disbursing Payments (Quarter Term

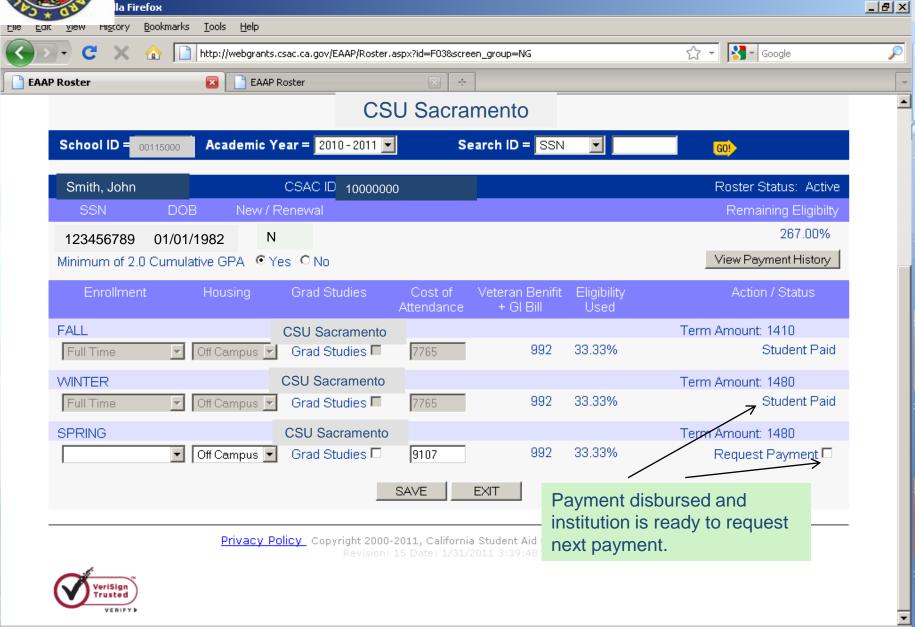
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Done

Disbursing Payments





Returning an EAAP Award Check

If the payment/check needs to be returned, follow the instructions on the disbursement guidelines and complete the disbursement roster.

Do not request the next term's payment until the prior term's payment has been disbursed to the student or enrollment status has been updated to show a leave of absence.

If a school requests the next payment while another payment for the same academic year is still processing, it creates system problems and delays future payments/checks. You should not be allowed to request the next term's award check until the open one has been closed, but the program sometimes allows this to happen.



Why do I need to return the disbursement roster and mark the check as disbursed in WebGrants? Isn't doing one enough?

- While these seem like the same step, they have two different purposes.
- We need the disbursement roster returned to us for auditing purposes. The form has space for you, the institution contact, to send us updated information regarding the Cost of Attendance, the VEB, and enrollment status. It also provides us useful information regarding graduate studies and summer term enrollment.
 - Marking the check as disbursed in WebGrants opens up the next term. Then, the enrollment information can be entered and that payment requested for that term.
 - Generally, I will contact you a month after the check has been mailed to verify it has been received and disbursed to the student. This is to ensure you are not having problems contacting the student and that the check has not been misdirected or lost. If it is lost, we are able to request a stop payment earlier rather than delaying payments further.



Contact Information

You send an e-mail to the CNG EAAP Coordinators at

ng.ca.caarng.list.cn6-eaap-mailbox-access@mail.mil

Or by phone

Katrina Beck

916-854-4255



916-854-4446

